

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is the only independent claim.
Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Copies of Initialed PTO-1449 Requested

Applicant respectfully requests copies of the initialed PTO-1449 submitted on March 10, 2005 and May 24, 2005.

In reviewing the application file, the undersigned has noted that the appropriate initialed Form PTO-1449 in response to the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on March 10, 2005 has not been received by Applicant. The Examiner is therefore requested to return a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 to the undersigned as soon as possible.

Furthermore, in reviewing the returned Form PTO-1449 for the IDS filed on May 24, 2005, the undersigned has noted that the Examiner has failed to initial the cited reference. The Examiner is therefore requested to return a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 to the undersigned as soon as possible.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Carolyn T. Baumgardner (Reg. No. 41,345) at (703) 205-8000 to schedule a Personal Interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment from or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17; particularly, the extension of time fees.

Dated: April 7, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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